

Livestock, Dairy and Poultry

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Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 12.0 million head on March 1, 2006. The inventory was eight percent above March 1, 2005 and nine percent above March 1, 2004. This is the highest March 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.60 million, five percent above 2005 but one percent below 2004. Net placements were 1.53 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 355,000, 600-699 pounds were 300,000, 700-799 pounds were 510,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 433,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.61 million, one percent below 2005 and five percent below 2004. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of February since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 73,000 during February, five percent below 2005 but six percent above 2004.

CATTLE ON FEED: U.S. Cattle Placed on Feed, by Weight
Groups, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, February 2005, January and February 2006

Month		Less than 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800+ lbs	Total
1,000 head						
February	2005	277	308	526	412	1,523
January	2006	530	447	702	520	2,199
February	2006	355	300	510	433	1,598

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED, 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS, AND UNITED STATES

State	Number on feed February 1		Placed during February 1		Marketed during February		Other disappearance during February		Number on feed March 1	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
1,000 head										
AZ	328	346	23	31	24	24	3	2	324	351
CA	525	550	49	63	54	56	5	7	515	550
CO	1,060	1,110	175	150	185	165	10	5	1,040	1,090
ID	270	265	33	32	52	38	1	4	250	255
IA	465	520	57	60	55	58	2	2	465	520
KS	2,420	2,580	360	410	390	360	20	20	2,370	2,610
NE	2,350	2,490	315	330	330	360	15	10	2,320	2,450
NM	129	146	13	13	14	14	3	2	125	143
OK	350	375	48	49	56	56	2	3	340	365
SD	205	210	32	33	26	29	1	4	210	210
TX	2,720	3,030	340	360	360	370	10	10	2,690	3,010
WA	190	153	32	25	35	22	2	2	185	154
Oth. Sts.	330	335	46	42	53	60	3	2	320	315
U.S.	11,342	12,110	1,523	1,598	1,634	1,612	77	73	11,154	12,023



United States
Department
Of Agriculture



National
Agricultural
Statistics Service

Florida
Field Office

Benjamin F. Klugh, Jr.
Director
407/648-6013

CHICKENS AND EGGS

FLORIDA

Table eggs sold in mid-March 2006 averaged 43.0 cents per dozen an increase from mid-February of seven cents. Table egg production in Florida during February was 222 million eggs, nine percent below the previous month.

UNITED STATES

U.S. egg production totaled 6.97 billion during February 2006, up one percent from last year. Production included 5.99 billion table eggs, and 989 million hatching eggs, of which 927 million were broiler-type and 62 million were egg-type. The number of layers during February 2006 averaged 350 million, up slightly from a year earlier. February egg production per 100 layers was 1,995 eggs, also up slightly from February 2005.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 2006, totaled 350 million, up slightly from a year ago. The 350 million layers consisted of 291 million layers producing table-type eggs, 56 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.91 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2006, averaged 71.6 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from March 1, 2005.

LAYERS AND EGGS: Selected States and U.S., February 2006

Selected States	Avg. layers on hand	Egg production	Rate of lay
	<i>Thousands</i>	<i>Millions</i>	
Alabama	8,897	157	63.0
Arkansas	14,512	250	61.5
California	19,377	383	70.6
Florida	11,406	230	72.0
Georgia	19,063	365	68.4
Indiana	25,043	503	71.8
Iowa	51,600	1,060	73.4
Maine	4,095	85	74.1
Maryland	2,084	56	71.3
Michigan	8,380	177	75.4
Minnesota	11,364	228	71.6
Mississippi	6,839	119	62.1
Missouri	7,279	143	70.2
Nebraska	11,827	247	74.6
New York	4,060	88	77.4
North Carolina	11,073	199	64.2
Ohio	29,570	592	71.5
Pennsylvania	23,667	509	76.8
South Carolina	5,075	101	71.7
Texas	18,651	373	71.4
Virginia	3,444	62	64.3
Washington	4,790	96	71.6
Other States	57,557	475	69.8
United States	349,653	6,974	71.3

UNITED STATES HOG AND PIGS

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2006 was 60.1 million head. This was up one percent from March 1, 2005, but down two percent from December 1, 2005.

Breeding inventory, at 6.03 million head, was up one percent from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.1 million head, was up one percent from last year, but down two percent from last quarter.

The December 2005 - February 2006 U.S. pig crop, at 25.7 million head, up one percent from 2005 and up two percent from 2004. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.84 million head, up slightly from both 2004 and 2005. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 47 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.03 for the December 2005-February 2006 period, compared to 8.94 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.90 million sows farrow during the March-May 2006 quarter, up one percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in both 2004 and 2005. Intended farrowings for June-August 2006, at 2.92 million sows, are up slightly from 2005 and up one percent from 2004. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 39 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, unchanged from last year.

HOGS AND PIGS: Inventory number, sows farrowing and pig crop, 2005-06, United States

	2005	2006	2006 as % of 2005
<i>1,000 head</i>			
MARCH 1 INVENTORY:			
All hogs and pigs	59,699	60,104	101
Kept for breeding	5,941	6,025	101
Market	53,757	54,079	101
MARKET HOGS AND PIGS			
BY WEIGHT GROUPS:			
Under 60 pounds	19,667	19,838	101
60 - 119 pounds	13,087	13,114	100
120 - 179 pounds	11,360	11,317	100
180 pounds	9,644	9,811	102
SOWS FARROWING:			
December ^{1/} -February	2,835	2,840	100
March-May	2,882	2,896	101
December ^{1/} -May	5,716	5,736	100
June-August	2,918	2,923	100
September-November	2,888		
June-November	5,806		
PIG CROP:			
December ^{1/} -February	25,343	25,654	101
March-May	25,986		
June-August	26,449		
September-November	26,080		

^{1/} December preceeding year.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION

FLORIDA

The February hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 4,583,000 was two percent above a year earlier. Broiler-type eggs in incubators on March 1, at 4,093,000 were one percent above a year ago.

Egg-type hatch during February at 734,000 chicks was 13 percent above last year. Egg-type eggs in incubators on March 1 at 667,000, were eight percent above a year ago.

UNITED STATES

Broiler-type chicks hatched during February 2006 totaled 733 million, up slightly from February 2005. Eggs in incubators totaled 666 million on March 1, 2006, up one percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.59 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during February 2006, up four percent from February 2005.

Egg-type chicks hatched during February 2006 totaled 33.7 million, down one percent from February 2005. Eggs in incubators totaled 36.5 million on March 1, 2006 down one percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 196,000 during February 2006, down six percent from February 2005.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION, UNITED STATES

Item	2005	2006	2006 % of 2005
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-- Thousands --

EGG-TYPE:

Eggs in incubators: Mar 1	36,774	36,514	99
Chicks hatched during Feb	33,932	33,665	99
Pullets hatched during Feb for intended placements in hatchery supply flocks	208	196	94
7-18 months earlier ^{1/}	3,080	2,854	93

BROILER-TYPE:

Eggs in incubators: Mar 1	658,866	665,624	101
Chicks hatched during Feb	731,274	733,145	100
Pullets hatched during Feb for intended placements in hatchery supply flocks	7,325	7,593	104
7-15 months earlier ^{2/}	62,460	63,060	101

^{1/}2006 includes pullet chicks hatched August 2004 through July 2005.

^{2/}2006 includes pullet chicks hatched November 2004 through July 2005.

MILK PRODUCTION

FLORIDA

Florida dairy farms produced 193 million pounds of milk during February 2006, six percent below the production in the previous February. Production per cow of 1,440 pounds was two percent below last year. Milk cows on Florida dairy farms in February totaled 134,000, four percent below last year.

UNITED STATES

Milk production in the 23 major States during February totaled 13.0 billion pounds, up 5.9 percent from February 2005. January production, at 14.0 billion pounds, was up 5.5 percent from January 2005.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,588 pounds for February, 66 pounds above February 2005.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.21 million head, 121,000 head more than February 2005, and 118,000 head more than January 2005.

MILK COWS AND PRODUCTION, FLORIDA AND U.S.

Month and year		Milk Cows	Monthly milk production	
			Per cow	Monthly Total
		Thous.	Lbs.	Mil. Lbs.
FLORIDA:				
February	2005	139	1,475	205
January	2006	134	1,485	199
February	2006	134	1,440	193
23 MAJOR STATES:				
February	2005	8,084	1,522	12,301
January	2006	8,195	1,710	14,014
February	2006	8,205	1,588	13,029
UNITED STATES:				
February	2005	8,996	1,504	13,530
January	2006	9,078	1,692	15,355
February	2006	9,088	1,571	14,275

MILK PRODUCTION BY QUARTERS, UNITED STATES

Month	Milk cows ^{1/}		Milk per cow ^{2/}		Milk Production	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	Thousand		Pounds		Mil. Lbs.	
Jan-Mar	8,993	9,002	4,755	4,816	42,759	43,350
Apr-Jun	9,001	9,041	4,869	5,069	43,824	45,831
Jul-Sep	9,027	9,060	4,679	4,871	42,239	44,134
Oct-Dec	9,019	9,060	4,655	4,821	41,983	43,674
Annual						
Total	9,010	9,041	18,957	19,576	170,805	176,989

^{1/} Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

^{2/} Excludes milk fed to calves.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat output in Florida for February 2006 was 4.6 million pounds, 16 percent above the same month last year. Commercial production of red meat in the United States for February at 3.48 billion pounds, was two percent above 2005.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER AND RED MEAT PRODUCTION, FLORIDA AND UNITED STATES

Source and kind	February 2005	January 2005	February 2006	Year to date 2005	Year to date 2006
FLORIDA					
HOGS:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	6	5	6	13	11
Total liveweight (1,000 pounds)	901	677	805	1,870	1,482
SHEEP AND LAMBS:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.2
Total liveweight (1,000 pounds)	10	9	5	21	14
Red meat production (million pounds)	4.0	4.9	4.6	8.4	9.5
UNITED STATES					
CATTLE:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	2,343	2,642	2,346	4,871	4,988
Total liveweight (million pounds)	2,937	3,385	3,010	6,127	6,395
Average liveweight (pounds)	1,253	1,281	1,283	1,258	1,282
Beef production (million pounds)	1,767	2,044	1,825	3,683	3,869
CALVES:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	62	56	53	130	109
Total liveweight (million pounds)	20	20	19	42	39
Average liveweight (pounds)	327	368	362	328	365
Veal production (million pounds)	12	13	12	25	24
HOGS:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	8,108	8,916	8,055	16,588	16,970
Total liveweight (million pounds)	2,189	2,436	2,190	4,478	4,626
Average liveweight (pounds)	270	273	272	270	273
Pork production (million pounds)	1,629	1,817	1,633	3,334	3,450
SHEEP AND LAMBS:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	214	224	203	424	426
Total liveweight (1,000 pounds)	30	32	29	59	61
LAMB AND MUTTON:	15	16	15	30	31
Red meat production (million pounds)	3,424	3,890	3,484	7,072	7,374